REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The allowance of claims 1-4, 7-10, 12-14 and 24-30 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 5, 6, 11, 15-17, 19-23, 29 and 30 were rejected as being anticipated by Rudolph et al.

Claims 5, 6, 11, 15 and 21 are being canceled. Claims 29 and 30 are being placed in independent form. Claims 16-17, 19-20 and 29-30 are being amended.

Reconsideration is requested.

As amended, all of the independent claims 16, 17, 19, 20, 29 and 30 now recite, with minor variations, that the reference voltage source is coupled between the MOS device and one of the inputs to the amplifier.

The Examiner points out that the Rudolph reference has an amplifier (110), a positive input (101) coupled to the source of the MOS device (120), a negative input (not numbered, but parallel to the input 101 in both Fig. 4 and Fig. 5B) coupled to the drain of the MOS device, and a reference voltage (113 in Fig. 5B).

However, contrary to the amended claims, Rudolph's reference voltage 113 is not disposed between an input to the amplifier and a terminal of the MOS device; it is an internal component of the amplifier 110 (Fig. 5B).

For at least these reasons, claims 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 29 and 30 are not anticipated by Rudolph et al. Allowance is respectfully requested.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail to Addressee (mail label # EV 324 436 513 US) in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 12, 2006:

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Respectfully submitted,

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